

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 121350Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8528

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USUN NEW YORK 358

UNCLAS GABORONE 1504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RH, BC

SUBJECT: MORE RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE A-54

1. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE
AUGUST 11:

QTE: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN
SECURITY FORCES IN BOTSWANA. ON 6 AUGUST 1976, MEMBERS OF THE
RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ILLEGALLY CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA NEAR
MAITENGWE AND INTERROGATED VILLAGERS AT GUNPOINT ABOUT THE PRESENCE
OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE AREA.

2. QTE: ON 7 AUGUST 1976, ANOTHER ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO
BOTSWANA WAS MADE BY A PARTY OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN
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SECURITY FORCES NEAR MAITENGWE, WHO ALSO INTERROGATED VILLAGERS

AT GUNPOINT ABOUT FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THEY SEARCHED SEVEN PEOPLE INCLUDING A WOMAN, AS WELL AS THEIR HOMES. SOME HOUSES WERE SEARCHED IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR OCCUPANTS.

3. QTE: A THIRD INCURSION OCCURRED LATER THE SAME DAY, WHEN AN ARMED PARTY OF MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES LANDED AT MAITENGWE IN A HELICOPTER AND HARASSED BATSWANA WHO WERE TENDING THEIR CATTLE. THESE INNOCENT VILLAGERS WERE ALSO SEARCHED AND INTERROGATED AT GUNPOINT.

4. QTE: THE HARASSMENT OF INNOCENT BATSWANA IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY BY MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES IS A SERIOUS ACT OF PROVOCATION WHICH CANNOT BE TOLERATED. THERE ARE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN BOTSWANA, THEY ARE IN RHODESIA AND THAT IS WHERE THE RHODESIANS SHOULD LOOK FOR THEM.

5. QTE: THE BOTSWANA POLICE WILL CARRY OUT REGULAR PATROLS ALONG THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA TO PREVENT SUCH INCURSIONS INTO BOTSWANA, AND THEY WILL USE ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO PROTECT THEIR INNOCENT COUNTRYMEN FROM THE BARBARIOUS TREATMENT WHICH HAS BEEN METED OUT TO THEM BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SMITH REGIME. UNQTE.

6. COMMENT: MAITENGWE IS ABOUT 45 MILES NORTHEAST OF THE RAIL-ROAD BORDER CROSSING.
HOOVER

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